Table 4-3. Forest Restoration Objectives by Seral Stage

Seral Stage	Definition	Objectives	Management Issues
Disturbed	Watershed restoration sites where recent ground disturbance has resulted or will result in removal of vegetation.	Establish and nurture new forest stands emphasizing species richness.	Highly accessible and easily manipulated.
Shrub-sapling harvested	Sites of most recent clearcuts with tree diameters from 0.1 to 8 inches and typically less than 15 years of age.	Reduce sapling density to establish high-growth rates and extensive crown development as stands advance into pole harvested stage.	Highly accessible and easily manipulated. Density management results in major growth increases and optimum stand structure development (most efficient stage for density management). Residue fuel hazard is short term.
Pole harvested	Sites of older clearcuts with tree diameters from 8 to 12 inches and typically from 15 to 30 years of age.	Reduce density to accelerate succession into early- and mid-mature stages and to create more diverse and healthy stand structures. Develop stand structure to soften the spatial transition from old-growth to second-growth stands (i.e., reduce edge effects) and to nurture connectivity between old-growth stands.	Requires more logistical planning for access and manipulation. Results materialize over a longer term. Residue fuel hazard is manageable but requires follow-up program of fuels reduction.
Seed-tree harvested	Sites that were subject to shelterwood or seed-tree silvicultural prescriptions over the previous 30 years resulting in old-growth legacy trees imbedded in a patchwork of shrub/sapling and pole stands.	Accelerate ingrowth in pole and shrub/sapling stands among the residual old-growth stands to reduce edge effects and maximize habitat values.	Variability in original stand treatment requires highly variable restoration prescriptions. This type will develop old-growth forest characteristics most quickly. Accessibility and residue fuel hazard depends on whether shrub-sapling or pole stages are being treated; see shrub-sapling harvested and pole harvested above.
Early mature harvested (generally no restoration actions will be taken)	Sites of clearcuts or other prescriptions that are 40–60 years of age and that have had no density management. Stands are variably stocked but often overstocked with many stems exceeding 16 inches diameter.	Allow natural succession and interstand competition to determine eventual stand characteristics.	Effects of density management are marginal as stand characteristics have already been established. Logistics, ground disturbance, and needed infrastructure are prohibitive in Reserve setting. Thinning residue from density management is of commercial size and results in major long-term fuel hazard if material is not removed from site.